

# George Washington Carver National Monument

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Weddings at George Washington Carver National Monument

If you are interested in getting married at George Washington Carver National Monument, the following information will be helpful in making your plans. A Special Use Permit (SUP) is required to hold a wedding within the park. Until a Special Use Permit is approved and issued, the requested date cannot be guaranteed. Follow the guidelines outlined below to ensure that your permit is in place in time for your special occasion.

**Locations:** Weddings are only permitted in the picnic area and the grounds around the picnic area of George Washington Carver National Monument (map of the area is attached). A visit to the park to view the area is highly recommended prior to finalizing your plans. The Special Use Permit does not allow your ceremony to restrict other park visitors from your chosen location nor does it guarantee you a specific site.

**Permit Fees:** A non-refundable application fee of \$50.00 is required to reserve a date on the park calendar and must be enclosed with your Special Use Permit Application Form. **A cashier's check, money order, or personal check must be made payable to the National Park Service with your Social Security Number or Tax Identification Number noted on your check.** Application fees are not refundable. Application Fees are not refundable.

National Park Service will charge a fee and recovery costs for special park use permits unless prohibited by law or executive order, or when the proposed use is protected by the First Amendment or involves another right and not a privilege. If administration of an SUP requires the park to incur additional costs, the Permittee will be assessed those costs in addition to application fee. Additional charges may be incurred for administrative services, overtime, repairing/restoring/cleaning resources, security, or similar costs associated with the event. Any additional costs will be required to be paid at the time of the issuance of the Special Use Permit. The Permittee shall pay the United States for any damage resulting from this use which would not reasonably be inherent in the use which the Permittee is authorized to make of the land described in this permit. Such damages would be billed to the Permittee after the event.

**Applications:** Complete the *Application for Special Use Permit (Form 10-930)*. Please review and sign the **Terms & Conditions** below and submit them with your permit application. These terms & conditions outline the specific requirements and restrictions of the permit. The permit application requires that you include either a tax ID number or social security number. This number is required by Federal Code 31 USC 7701c from a person or organization doing business with the Federal government and can be used to collect and/or report delinquent debt. Mail the completed application as well as the signed terms and conditions document and the application fee of \$50.00 to: George Washington Carver National Monument, Attn: Special Park Uses Coordinator, 5646 Carver Road, Diamond, MO 64840. Applications must be received at least two weeks prior to your requested date.

**Permits:** If your application is approved, a Special Use Permit will be prepared and mailed to you for signature. Upon receipt, please review, sign and return the permit along with any additional cost recovery fees to our office for the Superintendent's signature. After the Superintendent signs the permit, a copy of the permit as well as the signed terms and conditions packet will be forwarded to you. *The approved, signed permit copy must be in your possession at the time of your event.*

**Terms & Conditions:** To maintain park natural and cultural resources and quality visitor experiences the following restrictions and requirements apply to Special Use Permits for weddings:

1. The Federal Government, its agents and employees, cannot be held liable for claims for damages or suits for any injury or deaths from any cause occasioned by the Permittee's occupancy and use of the land and facilities included within the permit.
2. Permits are issued only for the use of approved areas and during the designated times as outlined in the permit. This permit may not be transferred or assigned without the consent of the Superintendent, in writing.
3. The Permittee is prohibited from giving false information; to do so will be considered a breach of conditions and be grounds for revocation [Re: 36 CFR 2.32(4)].

4. If required, all liability insurance policies are to name the U.S. Government, National Park Service, George Washington Carver National Monument as a co-insured and shall specify that the insurance company shall have no right to subrogation against the United States and shall have no recourse against the Government for payment of any premium or assessment. A certificate of insurance indicating that the required insurance is in effect shall be provided by the Permittee to the Special Park Uses Coordinator prior to the commencement of any activities authorized under this permit.
5. No personal monetary gains will be derived from the use of special use permits. The sale or free distribution of food to the public or participants is prohibited unless approved in the permit and all U.S. Public Health Service Standards are met.
6. Those conducting and participating in events shall maintain good order and proper decorum. Public safety and general welfare will not be endangered.
7. The Permittee and participants will not disturb, adversely effect, alter, damage or remove any natural/cultural resources, archeological or historic artifacts. Digging, scraping, chiseling or defacing natural features is prohibited.
8. Structures, including tents and portable pavilions may not be erected.
9. Historical buildings or other structures may be used as backdrop only. Buildings cannot be used for attachments (such as banners or flowers) or be incorporated into the ceremony as a stage.
10. Access to the area must be kept open to the public and weddings cannot interfere in any manner with normal visitor activity. The park will not exclude nor allow Permittee to exclude other park visitors from the site during the wedding ceremony.
11. All vehicles (including motorcycles) for the wedding party must be parked in designated parking areas. Carpooling is recommended; parking may be limited in some areas. Handicapped parking restrictions will be enforced.
12. Affixing directional signage to existing buildings, property, signs, poles, trees, or plants is not allowed. Please respect the uncluttered views of the park. Any posted signs will be removed immediately by park personnel.
13. Special conveyances, including but not limited to, horse drawn carriages, electric carts, and other devices will need further review and will be restricted to roads and parking lots.
14. In respect of other park visitors, amplified music is prohibited. Acoustic music will be considered. Exceptions may be made for portable tape decks, CD players, etc., if discussed in advance with the Special Use Permit Coordinator. Standing speakers, disc jockeys, public address systems or any other type of amplified device is prohibited.
15. To protect park lands and wildlife, throwing or scattering of rice, bird seed, flowers (to include flower petals, fresh or dried), confetti, streamers or other similar materials is prohibited. The release of animals including birds, butterflies, or other living things is prohibited.
16. The use of bubble machines is prohibited.
17. Helium balloons may not be released within the park nor is the Permittee allowed to use helium balloons as adornments to any park sign, structure, natural or cultural resource.
18. Serving of alcohol or any type of bar service is prohibited.
19. No indoor facility is available for the wedding ceremony, reception, or changing of clothes.
20. Fires, candles, tiki torches, and charcoal grills are prohibited. Sterno or gas grills are allowed.

21. Park areas will be left in the same condition as before the event. All litter, trash, and equipment will be removed from park property by the Permittee upon completion of the event. Permittee will assume all responsibility for cleanup of the site after the ceremony. Please remove any chairs, paper, trash or other items. Please make certain that someone in your group is assigned to remove trash and decorations after your event or you will be billed for staff overtime.
22. The Bride/Groom vehicle may not be decorated with cans, paper, streamers or any other item that may be left behind in the park.
23. Violation of the terms and conditions of the permit may result in the immediate revocation of the permit.

Other stipulations may be added depending on the specific nature of your request.

